BY ROY THOMAS, RICHARD HOWELL, AND GERALD FORTON
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THE JUSTICE SOCIETY™ VS. THE SPECTRE!™
ALL-STAR SQUADRON
STARRING SARGON THE SORCERER!
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ALL-STAR SQUADRON, Vol. 3, No. 28, December, 1983. Published monthly by DC COMICS INC., 666 Fifth Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10103. Application to Mail at Second Class Postage Rates is Pending at New York, New York and at Additional Mailing Offices. Copyright© 1983 by DC Comics Inc. All Rights Reserved. The stories, characters and incidents mentioned in this magazine are entirely fictional. No actual persons, living or dead, are intended or should be inferred. Printed in U.S.A.

Advertising Representative, Sanford Schwartz & Co., 355 Lexington Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10017. (212) 391-1400.
SUBSCRIPTION DEPT.: DC COMICS INC., P.O. Box 1308-F, Fort Lee, N.J. 07024. Annual subscription rate $9.00. Outside U.S.A. $10.00.
POSTMASTER: Send address changes to DC COMICS INC., P.O. Box 1308-F, Fort Lee, N.J. 07024.

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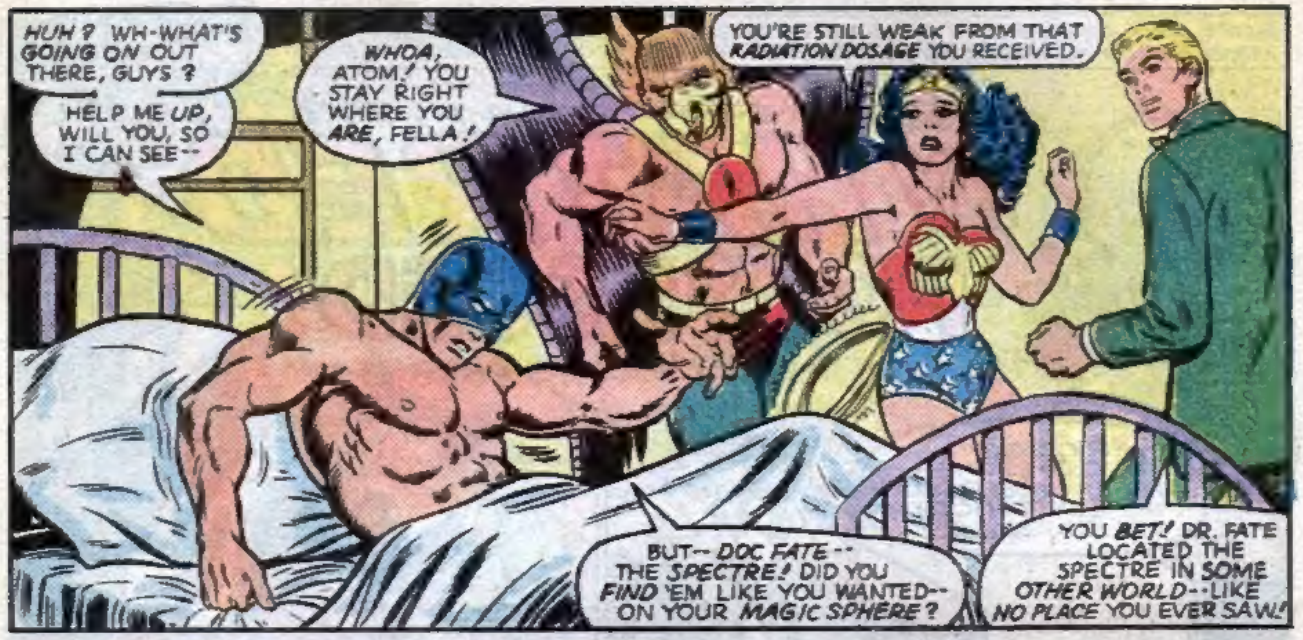
HUH? WH-WHAT'S GOING ON OUT THERE, GUYS?
HELP ME UP, WILL YOU, SO I CAN SEE--
WHOA, ATOM! YOU STAY RIGHT WHERE YOU ARE, FELLA!
YOU'RE STILL WEAK FROM THAT RADIATION DOSAGE YOU RECEIVED.
BUT-- DOC FATE -- THE SPECTRE! DID YOU FIND 'EM LIKE YOU WANTED-- ON YOUR MAGIC SPHERE?
YOU BET! DR. FATE LOCATED THE SPECTRE IN SOME OTHER WORLD--LIKE NO PLACE YOU EVER SAW!

WE'RE NOT SURE WHY YET--BUT THE SPECTRE WAS GUARDING THE TOMB OF HIS OLD FOE, KULAK.
FOR SOME REASON, HE TURNED ON FATE--HURLED HIM INTO AN INFINITY OF DIMENSIONS-- THEN KULAK HIMSELF CAME BACK TO LIFE, AND FELLED THE SPECTRE! *
THEN-- THOSE ARE KULAK'S GIANT MITTS I SEE OUT THERE?!
*WHICH BRINGS US UP TO DATE FROM LAST ISSUE. --R.T.

CHECK! LIKE THE SPECTRE, IT SEEMS KULAK CAN GROW TO ANY SIZE.
THERE WAS SOMETHING ABOUT HIS BEING SWORN TO DESTROY ANY CIVILIZATION WHICH DISTURBED HIS TOMB--
UH-OH! LOOK DOWN THERE, PEOPLE!
A STREETFUL OF NEW YORKERS--GETTING AN EYEFUL!

MY GOD! I-- I MUST BE SEEING THINGS!
IF YOU ARE, SISTER, THEN WE'RE ALL GOING BALMY!
IT'S GOTTA BE SOME KIND OF PUBLICITY STUNT-- DOESN'T IT?
EITHER THAT-- OR ELSE HITLER JUST BEAT US TO THE ULTIMATE WEAPON!
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YET, EVEN AS STUNNED MEN AND WOMEN REACT, THOSE GARGANTUAN HANDS FAR OVERHEAD KEEP STRAINING, STRAINING AT THE GAPING APERTURE THEY HAVE RIPPED IN THE VERY HEAVENS--
--AS IF UNABLE TO REND IT FURTHER!
LOOKS LIKE WE'VE GOT A MOMENT'S RESPITE, JSAers!
I DON'T GET IT! IF THIS KULAK CREEP WANTS TO TOTAL THE PLANET--WHY DOESN'T HE JUST COME OUT AND DO IT?
THAT'S EXACTLY WHAT THE JUSTICE SOCIETY INTENDS TO FIND OUT.
CALLING ROBOT PLANE--DIVE TO--
YEAH? WELL, I'M ONE-NINTH OF THE CURRENT ROSTER--SO WHERE DOES THAT LEAVE ME?
RIGHT IN THAT BED--TILL WE'VE DEALT WITH THIS MENACE!
HAWKMAN'S RIGHT, ATOM. FRANKLY, YOU'D JUST BE IN THE WAY UP THERE.
AFTER ALL, EVEN WHEN YOU'RE HALE AND HEARTY--
--YOU DON'T HAVE ANY SPECIAL POWERS, YOU KNOW!
AL PRATT DOES KNOW--AND WHILE IN THIS ERA, THAT CONDITION HARDLY SETS HIM APART FROM DR. MIDNITE, THE SANDMAN, AND OTHERS--
--AT THIS INSTANT, THE KNOWLEDGE OF HIS HELPLESSNESS FILLS HIM WITH A SILENT, IMPOTENT RAGE.
WHAT GOOD AM I--JUST FLOPPING AROUND IN THIS HOSPITAL BED--
--WAITING TO SEE IF THE WHOLE WORLD LIVES OR DIES?!
YOU WERE KINDA TOUGH ON THE LITTLE GUY, PEOPLE.
HE'S A JSAer. HE DOESN'T NEED TO BE COODLED.
ALL RIGHT, MY FRIENDS--TIME TO SWITCH TO ATTACK FORMATION!
I'LL TAKE ONE FLANK--STARMAN, YOU TAKE THE OTHER!
AND WE'LL CHARGE STRAIGHT AHEAD--RAM HIM WITH MY INVISIBLE PLANE, IF WE HAVE TO.
REMEMBER--THE LIFE OF THE EARTH MAY BE AT STAKE HERE--PERHAPS THE WHOLE UNIVERSE!
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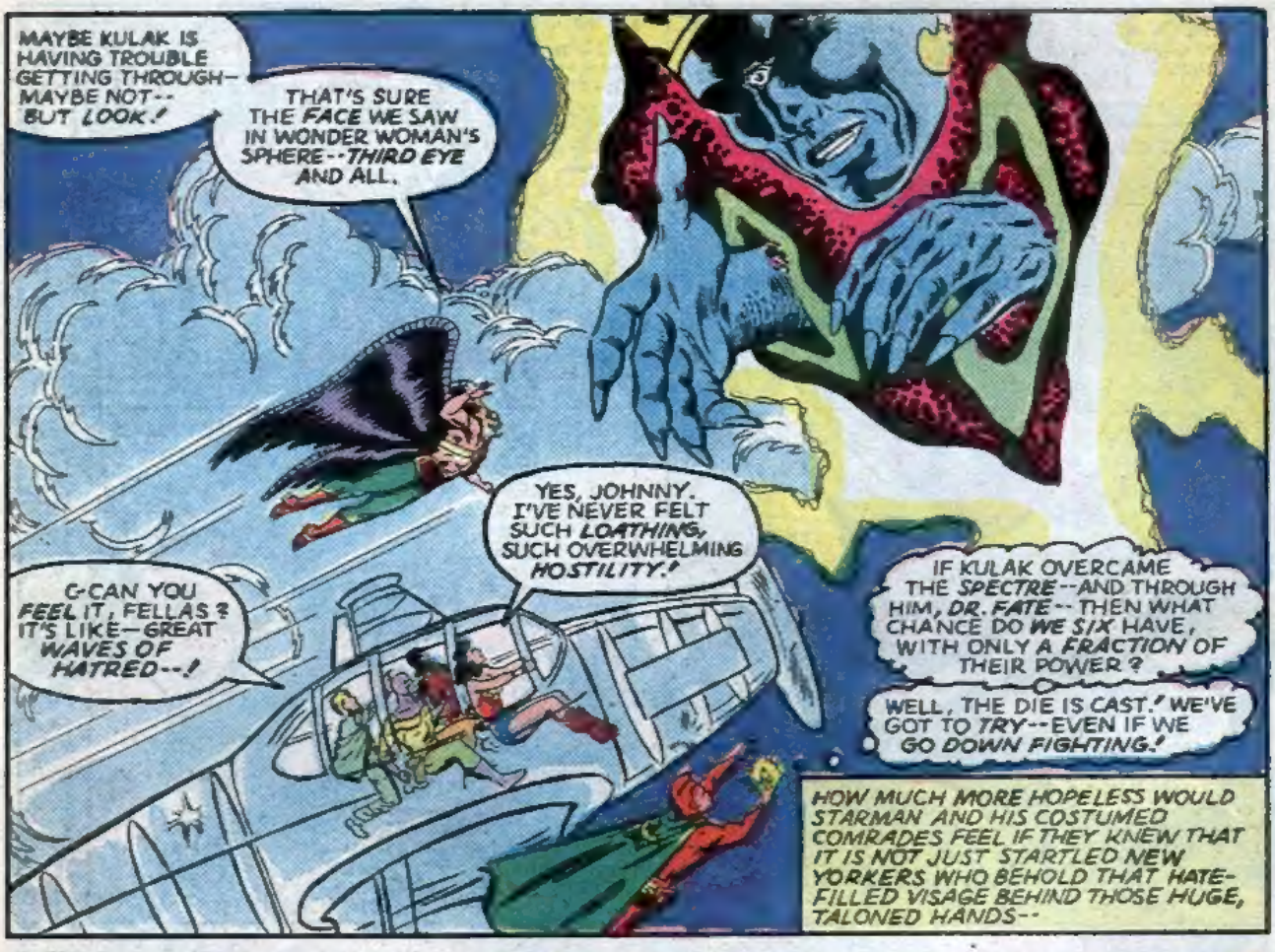

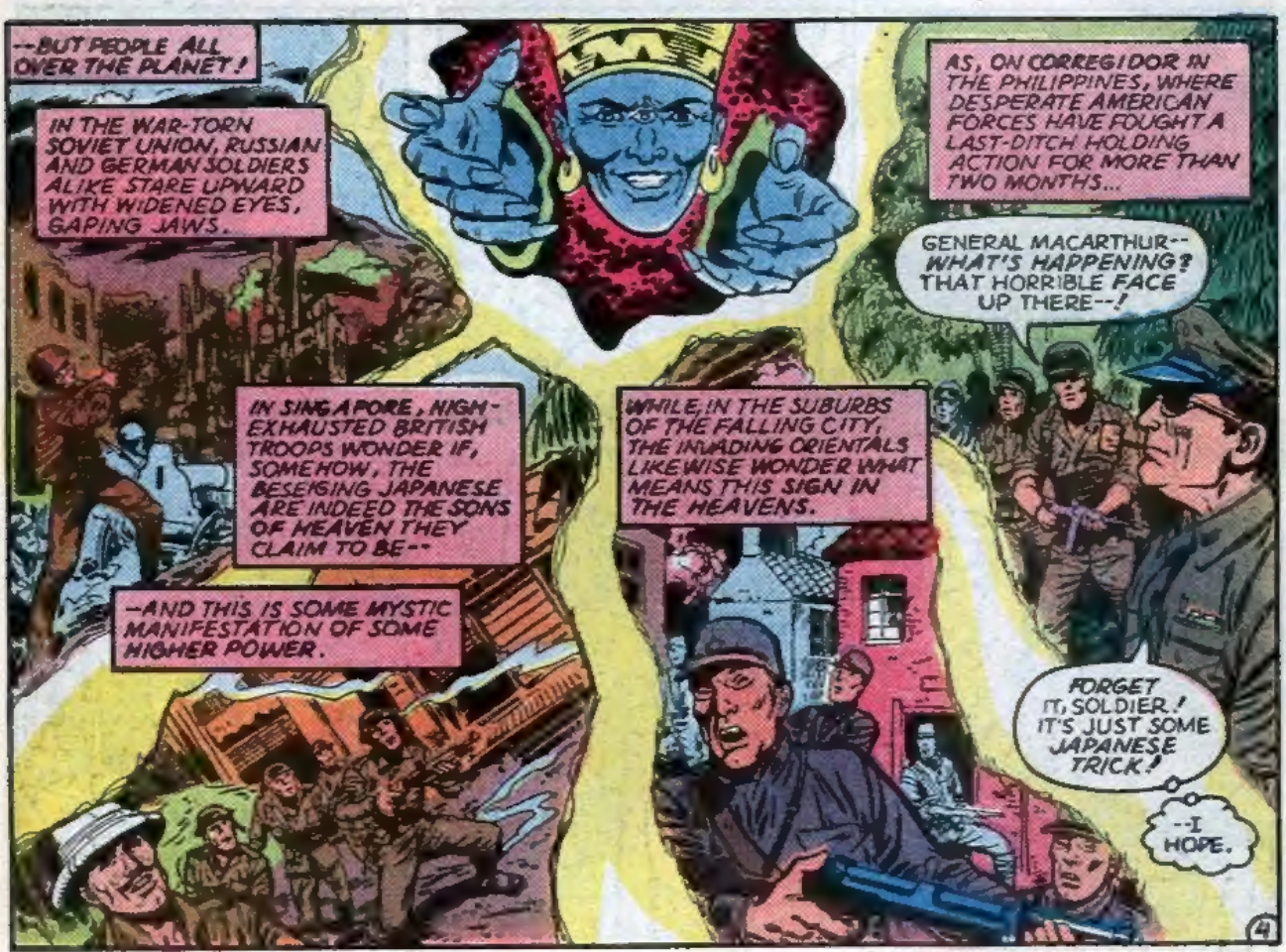

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TAKE OVER THE CONTROLS DR. MID-NITE! I'LL SEE IF MY GOLDEN LARIAT CAN PREVAIL AGAINST THE INVADER.
IF IT DOESN'T, THEN MAYBE MY GRAVITY ROD--
SAY, YOU * THUNDERBOLT! I FELL RIGHT OUTTA THE PLANE! CATCH ME, BEFORE I--
UNNNH--!
FLIK
FLIK
NO NEED TO ELABORATE, MASTER JOHN.
YOUR SPOKEN WISH IS MY COMMAND, REMEMBER?
BUT NEITHER MAGIC LASSO FORGED ON TIME-LOST PARADISE ISLAND, NOR STARMAN'S DEVICE WHICH HARNESSES THE POWER OF THE VERY STARS THEMSELVES, HAS ANY PALPABLE EFFECT UPON THE LEVIATHAN FIGURE--
--SAVE TO MAKE IT BESTIR A HUGE FINGER WHICH SWEEPS THEM FROM THE SKY AS IF THEY WERE BUT BOTHERSOME GNATS.
*ENGLISH EQUIVALENT OF JOHNNY THUNDER'S MAGIC WORD, "CEI-U." -R.
WATCH IT, JOHNNY! KULAK IS-- ARRRGH!
HOLY CATS! THE HAWKMAN TOOK A BLOW MEANT FOR US, T-BOLT! WE GOTTA--
I TOLD YOU BEFORE, MASTER JOHN--JUST GIVE ME A DIRECT ORDER, NOT A PHILOSOPHICAL DISCUSSION.
OKAY, OKAY--GET THE HAWKMAN--FAST!
FLIKK!
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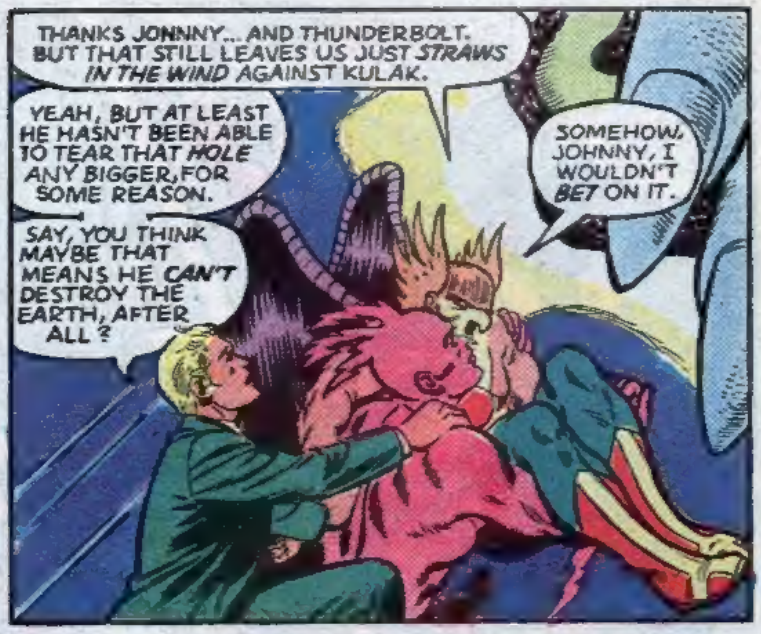
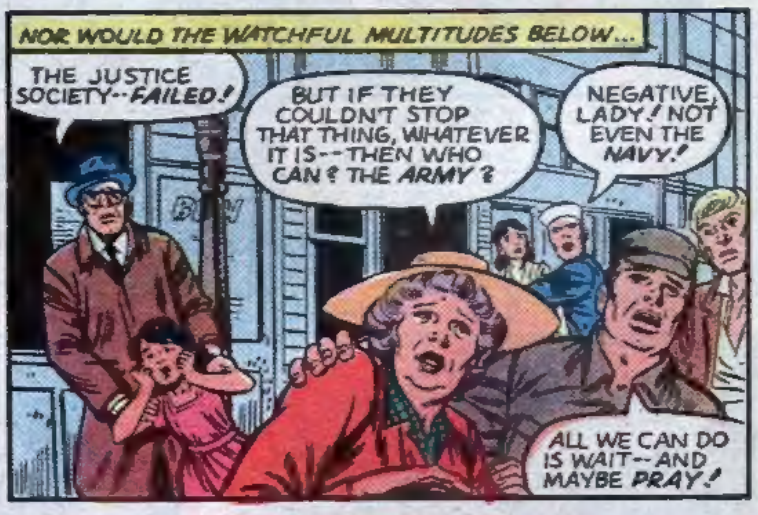
THAT'S MORE LIKE IT.
SORRY, MASTER JOHN. I'D BE GLAD TO TRY, OF COURSE, IF YOU INSIST...
HEY, WHILE YOU'RE AT IT, T-BOLT.. D'YOU THINK YOU COULD ZAP KULAK FROM HERE TO BLAZES, TOO?
...BUT EVEN FROM HERE, I CAN TELL HE'S OUT OF MY CLASS.
MY WIREPOON'S GOT STARMAN-- BUT HIS GRAVITY ROD--
I'VE GOT IT-- AND MY ROBOT PLANE WOULD POSITION ITSELF TO CATCH ME AGAIN--
--EVEN IF DR. MID-NITE WEREN'T A CONSIDERABLY BETTER PILOT THAN I COULD HAVE IMAGINED.
HEY, HAUL ME UP, WILL YOU, SANDMAN?


THANKS JONNNY... AND THUNDERBOLT. BUT THAT STILL LEAVES US JUST STRAWS IN THE WIND AGAINST KULAK.
YEAH, BUT AT LEAST HE HASN'T BEEN ABLE TO TEAR THAT HOLE ANY BIGGER, FOR SOME REASON.
SAY, YOU THINK MAYBE THAT MEANS HE CAN'T DESTROY THE EARTH, AFTER ALL?
SOMEHOW, JOHNNY, I WOULDN'T BET ON IT.


NOR WOULD THE WATCHFUL MULTITUDES BELOW...
THE JUSTICE SOCIETY--FAILED!
BUT IF THEY COULDN'T STOP THAT THING, WHATEVER IT IS--THEN WHO CAN? THE ARMY?
NEGATIVE, LADY! NOT EVEN THE NAVY!
ALL WE CAN DO IS WAIT--AND MAYBE PRAY!

ONE HOT-BLOODED YOUTH, HOWEVER, IS TRYING TO DO A BIT MORE THAN THAT--THOUGH HE KNOWS NOT WHAT:
WONDER WHAT HAPPENED... TO FIREBRAND... DANETTE REILLY. SHE WENT OFF... TO LOOK IN ON THE CURTIS BABY.
GOSH, I--I WOULDN'T HAVE BELIEVED ANYTHING-- COULD BEAT THE WHOLE JSA!
KNOW IT WON'T... MAKE ANY DIFFERENCE... BUT I'VE JUST GOTTA MAKE IT UP THERE WITH 'EM... SOMEHOW...

BUT HOW? HOW??
I KNOW WHAT YOU ARE THINKING, YOUNG FRIEND...
HUH?
WHO THE DEVIL ARE YOU, MISTER-- AND HOW'D YOU GET IN HERE?
TALK FAST, BEFORE I--
DO NOT SEEK TO THREATEN SARGON THE SORCERER!
SURELY YOU'VE HEARD OF ME--IF ONLY AS ONE YOU THOUGHT A MERE STAGE MAGICIAN.
WHAT YOU COULDN'T KNOW IS THAT I'M A TRUE WIZARD--AS WITNESS THE FACT THAT MY MEREST TOUCH HAS FILLED YOU WITH RENEWED ENERGY.
YEAH, I--I HAVE HEARD OF YOU.
THE BLACKSTONE OF THE PARK AVENUE SET...
AND YOU'RE RIGHT--I DO SUDDENLY FEEL A LOT BETTER, SOMEHOW!
DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU DID, BUT JUST GIVE ME A MINUTE TO PIECE TOGETHER A COSTUME, AND I'LL--
NO!
WHAT--?
EVEN MY MAGIC COULD RESTORE ONLY PART OF YOUR STRENGTH... A MEASURE OF HOW GREATLY YOUR BODY WAS AFFECTED BY THE RADIOACTIVE TOUCH OF THE MAN CALLED CYCLOTRON.*
HOW'D YOU KNOW ABOUT--?
I KNOW MANY THINGS. BUT NOW...
RUG--BECOME A MAGIC CARPET!
*ANNUAL #2. --Roy.
HEY! COME BACK HERE, YOU!
WHEN THE BATTLE FOR THE EARTH IS DONE, ATOM... NOT BEFORE!
CARPET--TAKE ME TO THE JUSTICE SOCIETY!
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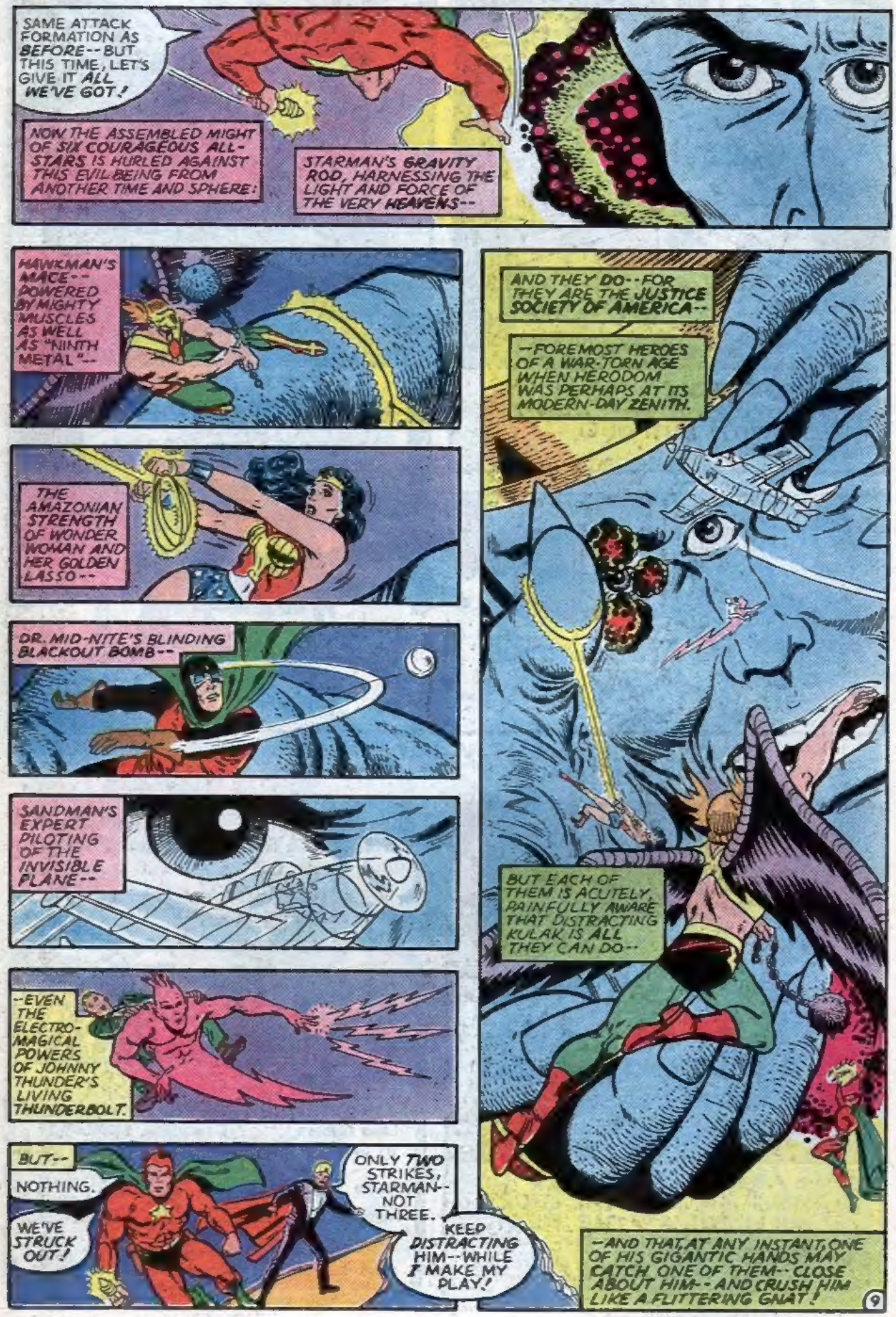
SAME ATTACK FORMATION AS BEFORE--BUT THIS TIME, LET'S GIVE IT ALL WE'VE GOT!
NOW THE ASSEMBLED MIGHT OF SIX COURAGEOUS ALL-STARS IS HURLED AGAINST THIS EVIL BEING FROM ANOTHER TIME AND SPHERE:
STARMAN'S GRAVITY ROD, HARNESSING THE LIGHT AND FORCE OF THE VERY HEAVENS--
HAWKMAN'S MACE--POWERED BY MIGHTY MUSCLES AS WELL AS "NINTH METAL"--
THE AMAZONIAN STRENGTH OF WONDER WOMAN AND HER GOLDEN LASSO--
DR. MID-NITE'S BLINDING BLACKOUT BOMB--
SANDMAN'S EXPERT PILOTING OF THE INVISIBLE PLANE--
--EVEN THE ELECTRO-MAGICAL POWERS OF JOHNNY THUNDER'S LIVING THUNDERBOLT.
BUT--
NOTHING.
WE'VE STRUCK OUT!
ONLY TWO STRIKES, STARMAN--NOT THREE.
KEEP DISTRACTING HIM--WHILE I MAKE MY PLAY!
AND THEY DO--FOR THEY ARE THE JUSTICE SOCIETY OF AMERICA--
--FOREMOST HEROES OF A WAR-TORN AGE WHEN HERODOM WAS PERHAPS AT ITS MODERN-DAY ZENITH.
BUT EACH OF THEM IS ACUTELY, PAINFULLY AWARE THAT DISTRACTING KULAK IS ALL THEY CAN DO--
--AND THAT, AT ANY INSTANT, ONE OF HIS GIGANTIC HANDS MAY CATCH ONE OF THEM--CLOSE ABOUT HIM--AND CRUSH HIM LIKE A FLUTTERING GNAT!
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THEN, AS THE ONE-SIDED BATTLE REACHES ITS MIND-NUMBING CLIMAX--
CONTACT!
RING OF LIFE-- BY YOUR SISTER JEWEL I COMMAND YOU--
CLOSE THE APERTURE 'TWIXT THAT WORLD AND THIS! CLOSE IT TO YOUR WEARER FOREVERMORE!
YOU ARROGANT FOOL--
I'LL KILL YOU FOR THIS!
SPLAK!
HE'S SWATTED SARGON OUT OF THE PARK!
I'LL GET HIM!
THE HOLE-- CLOSING!
NNOOOO!
KULAK--IS HE--??
HE WENT BACK DOWN HIS RABBIT HOLE-- AND PULLED THE HOLE IN AFTER HIM, LIKE A GOOD LITTLE MAGICIAN.
POOF!
WE'VE WON, SARGON... THANKS TO YOU.
AND ORDINARILY I DON'T BELIEVE IN MAGIC!
I SAW IT ALL, FELLAS! SORRY I COULDN'T FIGURE OUT A WAY TO JOIN YOU UP THERE, BUT--
ATOM! WHAT'RE YOU DOING UP AND AROUND?
THAT SARGON GUY-- HE JUST LAID HANDS ON ME, AND--HEY, WHERE IS HE, ANYWAY?
STARMAN'S BRINGING HIM IN.
THEN IT LOOKS LIKE EVERYTHING TURNED OUT PERFECT.
DON'T BE TOO SURE. I TOLD THE OTHERS THERE MIGHT BE SIDE EFFECTS OF THAT RADIATION--MONTHS OR YEARS FROM NOW.
DOC, YOU ALWAYS WERE A PARTY-POOPER.
WILL YOU BE ALL RIGHT, SARGON?
YES. THE RUBY OF LIFE... IN MY TURBAN... WILL HEAL ME, IN SHORT ORDER.
BUT... YOU WERE WRONG, MY FRIEND. WE HAVE NOT WON YET FOR IF KULAK CANNOT ENTER HIMSELF INTO THE WORLD OF HUMANKIND...
...HE MAY YET FIND A WAY TO SEND THE SPECTRE AGAINST US!
WHAT?
HOW DO YOU KNOW SO MUCH ABOUT WHAT KULAK MAY DO?
YEAH. RIDDLE US THAT!
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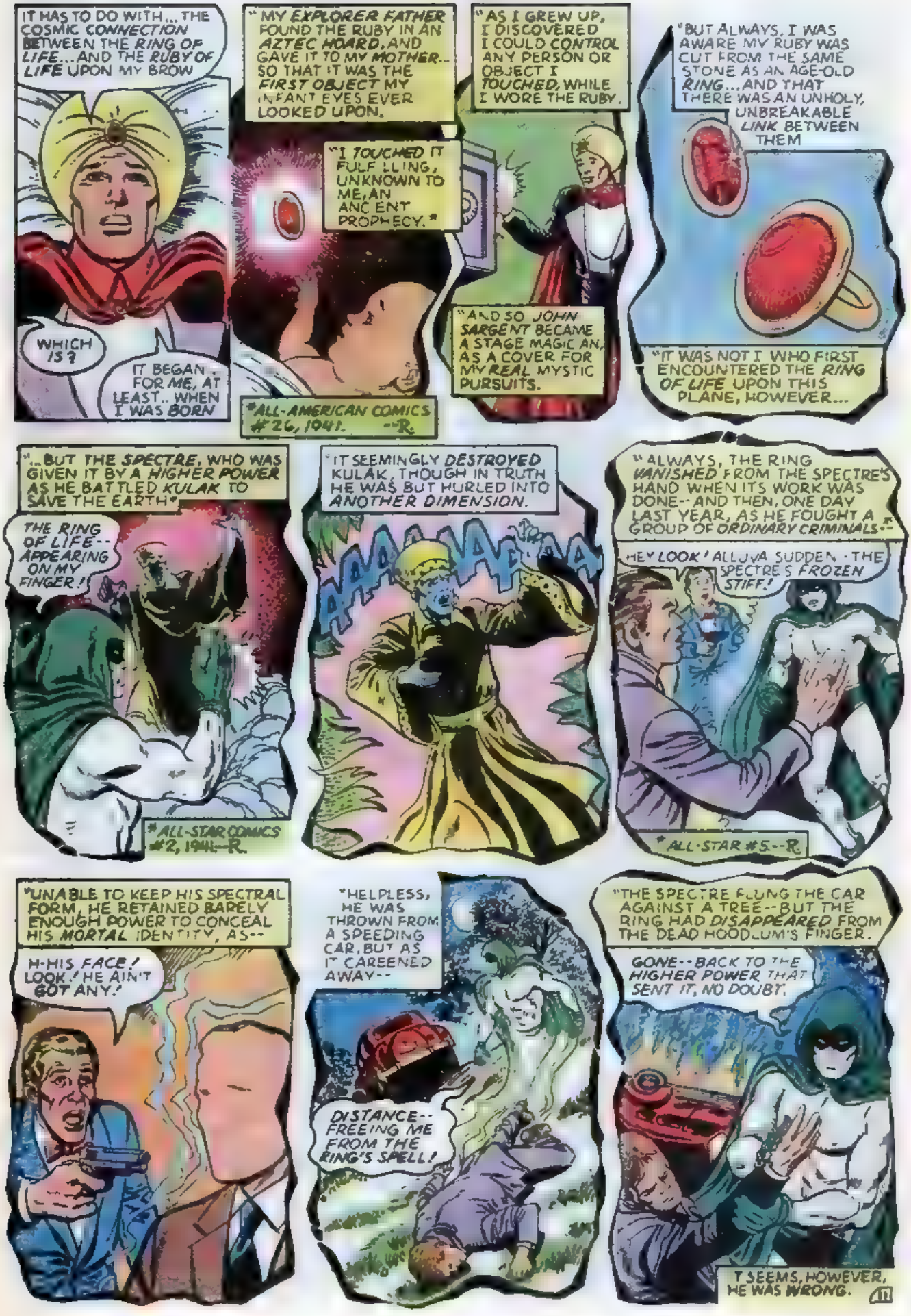
IT HAS TO DO WITH... THE COSMIC CONNECTION BETWEEN THE RING OF LIFE... AND THE RUBY OF LIFE UPON MY BROW
WHICH IS?
IT BEGAN FOR ME, AT LEAST.. WHEN I WAS BORN
"MY EXPLORER FATHER FOUND THE RUBY IN AN AZTEC HOARD, AND GAVE IT TO MY MOTHER... SO THAT IT WAS THE FIRST OBJECT MY INFANT EYES EVER LOOKED UPON.
"I TOUCHED IT FULFILLING, UNKNOWN TO ME, AN ANCIENT PROPHECY."
"ALL-AMERICAN COMICS #26, 1941. --R.
"AS I GREW UP, I DISCOVERED I COULD CONTROL ANY PERSON OR OBJECT I TOUCHED, WHILE I WORE THE RUBY.
"AND SO JOHN SARGENT BECAME A STAGE MAGICIAN, AS A COVER FOR MY REAL MYSTIC PURSUITS.
"BUT ALWAYS, I WAS AWARE MY RUBY WAS CUT FROM THE SAME STONE AS AN AGE-OLD RING... AND THAT THERE WAS AN UNHOLY, UNBREAKABLE LINK BETWEEN THEM
"IT WAS NOT I WHO FIRST ENCOUNTERED THE RING OF LIFE UPON THIS PLANE, HOWEVER...
"...BUT THE SPECTRE, WHO WAS GIVEN IT BY A HIGHER POWER AS HE BATTLED KULAK TO SAVE THE EARTH"
THE RING OF LIFE-- APPEARING ON MY FINGER!
"ALL-STAR COMICS #2, 1940--R.
"IT SEEMINGLY DESTROYED KULAK, THOUGH IN TRUTH HE WAS BUT HURLED INTO ANOTHER DIMENSION.
AAAAAAAAAA
"ALWAYS, THE RING VANISHED FROM THE SPECTRE'S HAND WHEN ITS WORK WAS DONE-- AND THEN, ONE DAY LAST YEAR, AS HE FOUGHT A GROUP OF ORDINARY CRIMINALS--
HEY LOOK! ALLUVA SUDDEN - THE SPECTRE'S FROZEN STIFF!
"ALL-STAR #5--R.
"UNABLE TO KEEP HIS SPECTRAL FORM, HE RETAINED BARELY ENOUGH POWER TO CONCEAL HIS MORTAL IDENTITY, AS--
H-HIS FACE! LOOK! HE AIN'T GOT ANY!
"HELPLESS, HE WAS THROWN FROM A SPEEDING CAR, BUT AS IT CAREENED AWAY--
DISTANCE-- FREEING ME FROM THE RING'S SPELL!
"THE SPECTRE FLUNG THE CAR AGAINST A TREE--BUT THE RING HAD DISAPPEARED FROM THE DEAD HOODLUM'S FINGER.
GONE-- BACK TO THE HIGHER POWER THAT SENT IT, NO DOUBT.
IT SEEMS, HOWEVER, HE WAS WRONG.

"MY RUBY HAS MADE ME AWARE THAT KULAK HAD DRAWN THE RING TO HIMSELF, WHERE HE LAY IMMOBILIZED IN A SPACE BETWEEN THE WORLDS.
"WHILE HE USED IT TO SLOWLY REPLENISH HIS FAILED MIGHT..
...ITS POWER CONSTRUCTED AN EERIE TOMB AROUND HIS VULNERABLE FORM.
"YET, THE RING COULD NOT EXERT SUCH EFFECT ANYWHERE, IN ANY COSMOS, WITHOUT ALERTING THE SPECTRE, IN TIME...
THE RING OF LIFE-- IN KULAK'S HANDS? IT MUST NOT BE!
"AFTER A BITTER STRUGGLE, THE SPECTRE WAS SUBDUED-- WHEN KULAK'S LONG-DEAD LEGIONS WERE BROUGHT INTO THE BALANCE *
*ISSUE #20 --R.T.
"THUS DID THE SPECTRE COME UNDER KULAK'S CONTROL... USED TO STAND GUARD OVER THE TOMB, TILL KULAK'S FULL STRENGTH SHOULD RETURN.
"WHEN DOCTOR FATE CAME CALLING, HOWEVER, KULAK SENSED THAT NABU'S HELMET COULD PROVIDE JUST THE LIMITLESS POWER HE SOUGHT.
PERHAPS IT HAD BEEN THE GIANT MAGE NABU WHO'D IMPRISONED HIM LONG AGO; I DO NOT KNOW.
"AS FATE AND SPECTRE FOUGHT, THE RING UPON KULAK'S HAND DREW PSYCHIC FORCE FROM THE BATTLE...
...THAN THE THREE-EYED ONE AWAKENED SUDDENLY--
SO THAT THE GRIM GHOST HAD NO SOONER CALLED UPON MYSTIC RESOURCES BEYOND EVEN FATE'S, AND HURLED HIM INTO AN INFINITY OF DIMENSIONS...
"...WITH A PSIONIC BLAST WHICH FELLED EVEN THE SPECTRE!"
THEN, KULAK SET ABOUT CASTING THE SPELLS WHICH, DAYS LATER, NEARLY BROUGHT HIM INTO THIS WORLD.
THANK GOD THEY DIDN'T.
UH-- DON'T BE TOO QUICK WITH THE THANK-YOUS, HAWK--
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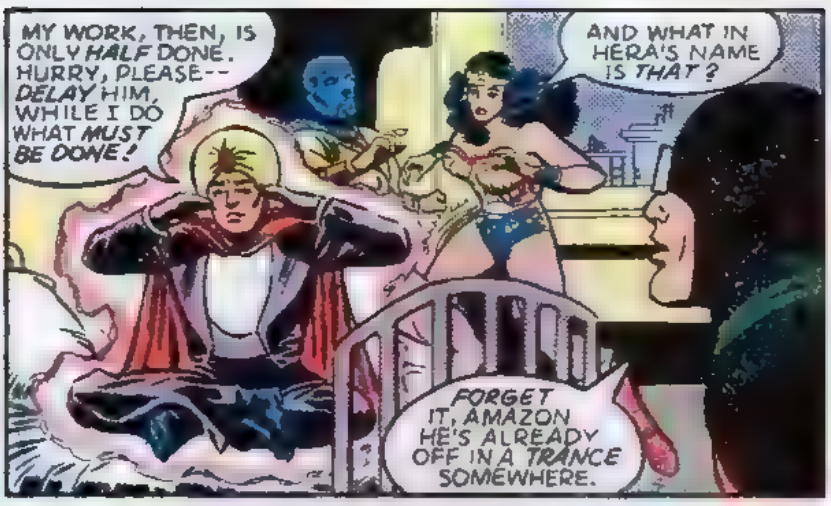
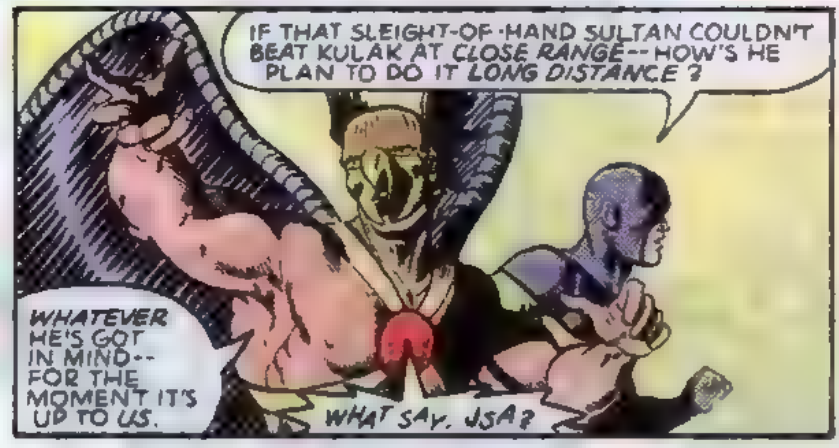
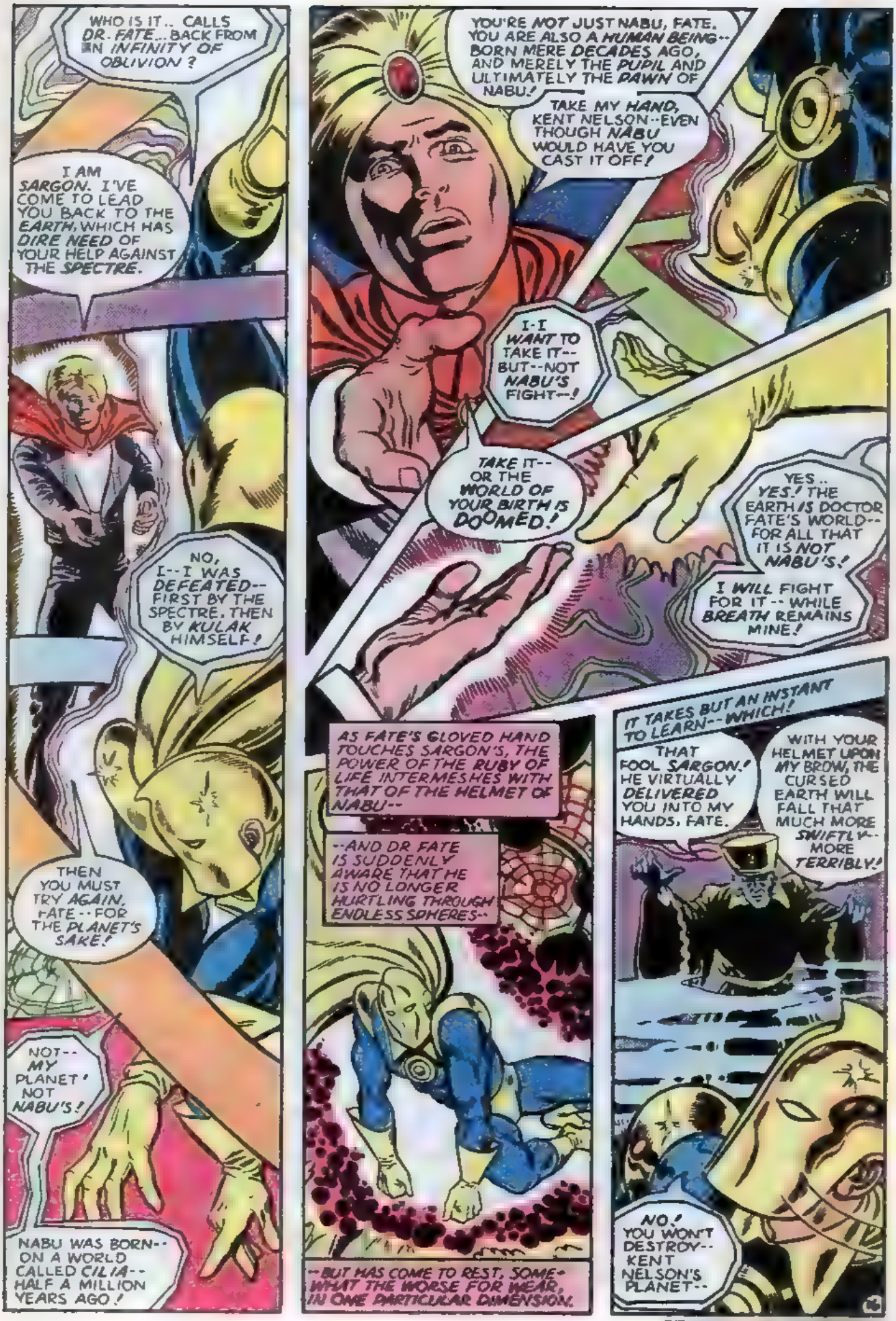
--TILL YOU FIND OUT FOR SURE WHY THE SPECTRE'S DECIDED TO PAY US A VISIT!
FROM THAT DEADLY GLEAM IN HIS EYES--I THINK WE CAN GUESS!
HE'S STILL UNDER KULAK'S CONTROL!


MY WORK, THEN, IS ONLY HALF DONE. HURRY, PLEASE-- DELAY HIM, WHILE I DO WHAT MUST BE DONE!
AND WHAT IN HERA'S NAME IS THAT?
FORGET IT, AMAZON HE'S ALREADY OFF IN A TRANCE SOMEWHERE.


IF THAT SLEIGHT-OF-HAND SULTAN COULDN'T BEAT KULAK AT CLOSE RANGE-- HOW'S HE PLAN TO DO IT LONG DISTANCE?
WHATEVER HE'S GOT IN MIND-- FOR THE MOMENT IT'S UP TO US.
WHAT SAY, JSA?

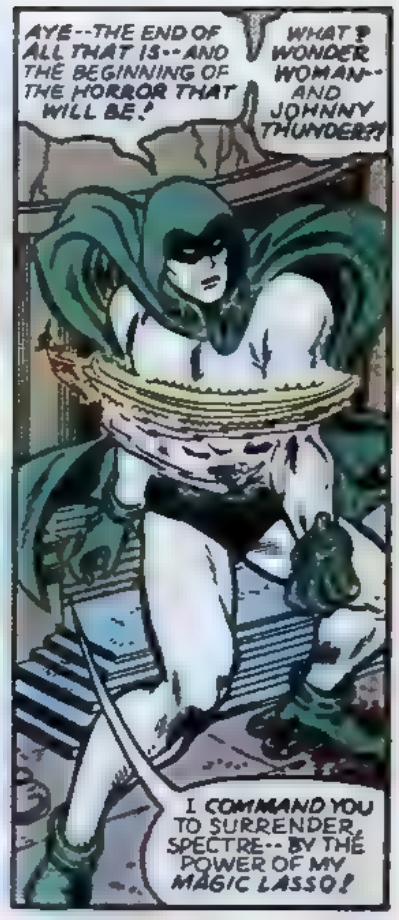
MORTALS-- YOUR END HAS COME!
GOOD LORD! THAT THING'S TEN TIMES LARGER THAN-- THAN KING KONG!
THAT WAS THE MOVIES, GEORGE. THIS IS REAL LIFE-- SO RUN!

LIFE? NAY, WOMAN--'TIS THE TIME, RATHER, FOR-- THE WHISPERING DEATH!
HATE
AS IT DID LONG MONTHS AGO, KULAK'S OMINOUS SPELL COVERS THE SPINNING PLANET LIKE A DARKSOME SHROUD...


WHO IS IT.. CALLS DR. FATE... BACK FROM AN INFINITY OF OBLIVION ?
I AM SARGON. I'VE COME TO LEAD YOU BACK TO THE EARTH, WHICH HAS DIRE NEED OF YOUR HELP AGAINST THE SPECTRE.
NO, I--I WAS DEFEATED-- FIRST BY THE SPECTRE, THEN BY KULAK HIMSELF!
THEN YOU MUST TRY AGAIN, FATE--FOR THE PLANET'S SAKE!
NOT-- MY PLANET! NOT NABU'S!
NABU WAS BORN-- ON A WORLD CALLED CILIA-- HALF A MILLION YEARS AGO!
YOU'RE NOT JUST NABU, FATE. YOU ARE ALSO A HUMAN BEING-- BORN MERE DECADES AGO, AND MERELY THE PUPIL AND ULTIMATELY THE PAWN OF NABU!
TAKE MY HAND, KENT NELSON--EVEN THOUGH NABU WOULD HAVE YOU CAST IT OFF!
I-I WANT TO TAKE IT-- BUT--NOT NABU'S FIGHT--!
TAKE IT-- OR THE WORLD OF YOUR BIRTH IS DOOMED!
YES.. YES! THE EARTH IS DOCTOR FATE'S WORLD-- FOR ALL THAT IT IS NOT NABU'S!
I WILL FIGHT FOR IT-- WHILE BREATH REMAINS MINE!
AS FATE'S GLOVED HAND TOUCHES SARGON'S, THE POWER OF THE RUBY OF LIFE INTERMESHES WITH THAT OF THE HELMET OF NABU--
--AND DR FATE IS SUDDENLY AWARE THAT HE IS NO LONGER HURTLING THROUGH ENDLESS SPHERES--
--BUT HAS COME TO REST, SOMEWHAT THE WORSE FOR WEAR, IN ONE PARTICULAR DIMENSION.
IT TAKES BUT AN INSTANT TO LEARN--WHICH!
THAT FOOL SARGON! HE VIRTUALLY DELIVERED YOU INTO MY HANDS, FATE.
WITH YOUR HELMET UPON MY BROW, THE CURSED EARTH WILL FALL THAT MUCH MORE SWIFTLY-- MORE TERRIBLY!
NO! YOU WON'T DESTROY-- KENT NELSON'S PLANET--
CONTINUED ON 2ND PAGE FOLLOWING

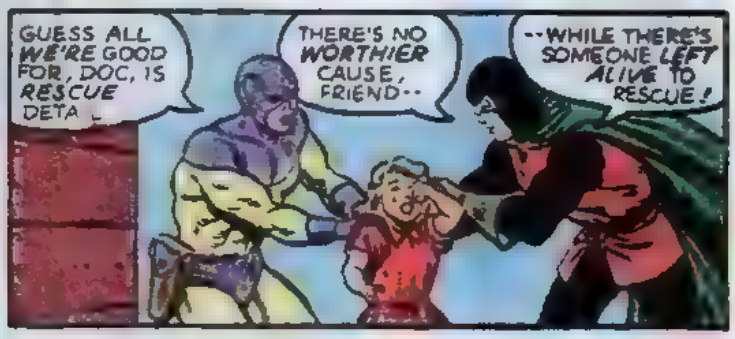
--NOT WHILE OR, FATE STANDS!
THEN THE EARTH HAS BUT MOMENTS LEFT TO LIVE!
HE'S UNBELIEVABLY POWERFUL! HOW CAN I DEFEAT A CREATURE-- WHO'S BENT EVEN THE SPECTRE TO HIS WILL?

MEANWHILE, EVENTS EQUALLY FANTASTIC SEEM ABOUT TO OVERWHELM THE EARTH ITSELF.
KRUNCH!
RUN FOR IT! TH-THAT GHOSTLY GIANT--!
IT'S THE THE END OF THE WORLD!


AYE--THE END OF ALL THAT IS--AND THE BEGINNING OF THE HORROR THAT WILL BE!
WHAT? WONDER WOMAN-- AND JOHNNY THUNDER?!
I COMMAND YOU TO SURRENDER, SPECTRE-- BY THE POWER OF MY MAGIC LASSO!

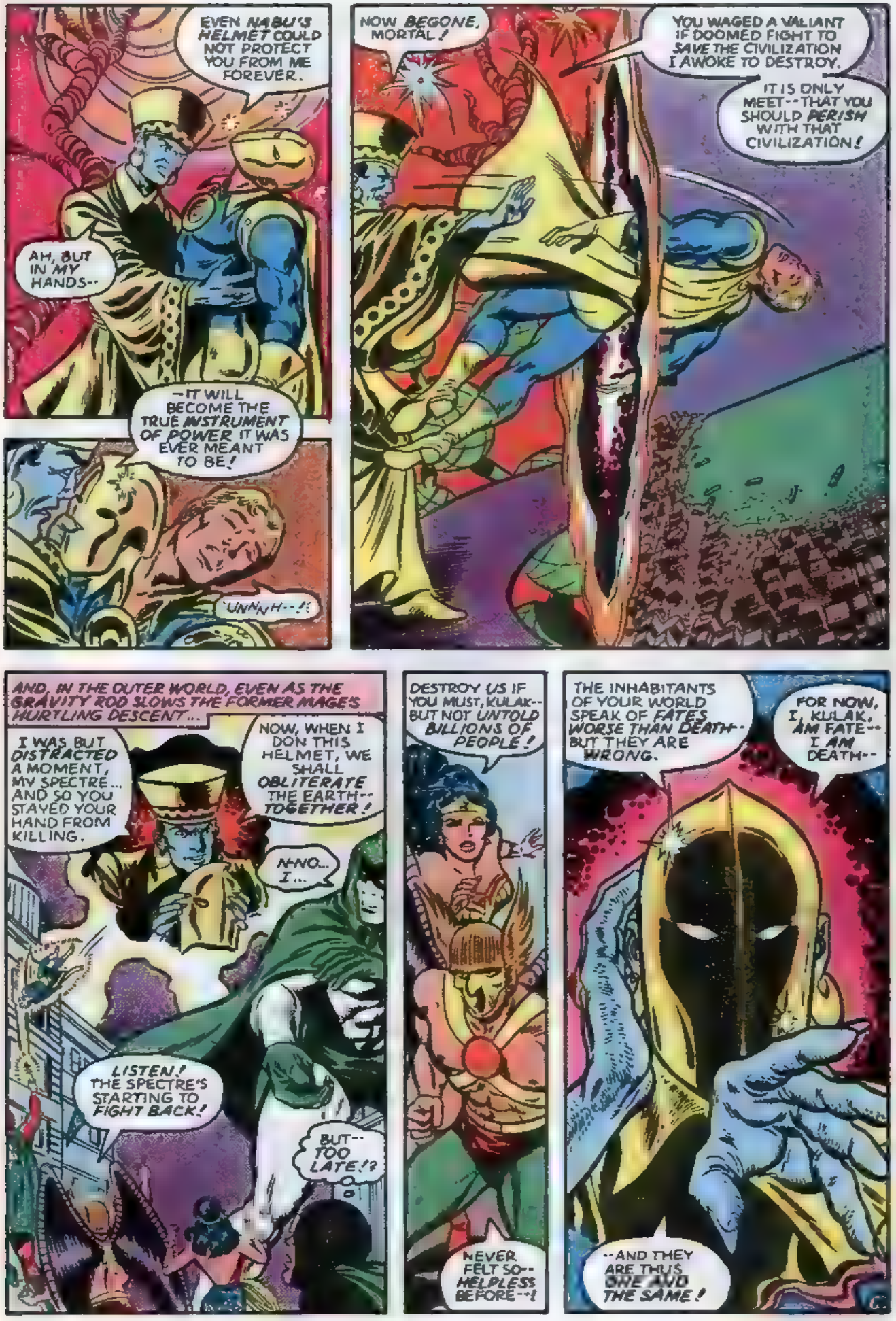
MERCIVAL MINERVA!
SUCH MYTHIC MAGIC IS FOR THE LIVING, AMAZON-- NOT FOR THE STALKING DEAD!
T-BOLT! CAN'T YOU DO SOMETHING?
CERTAINLY, MASTER JOHN. I CAN FLY CLOSER AND COMMIT SUICIDE-- IF THAT'S WHAT YOU'VE GOT IN MIND.

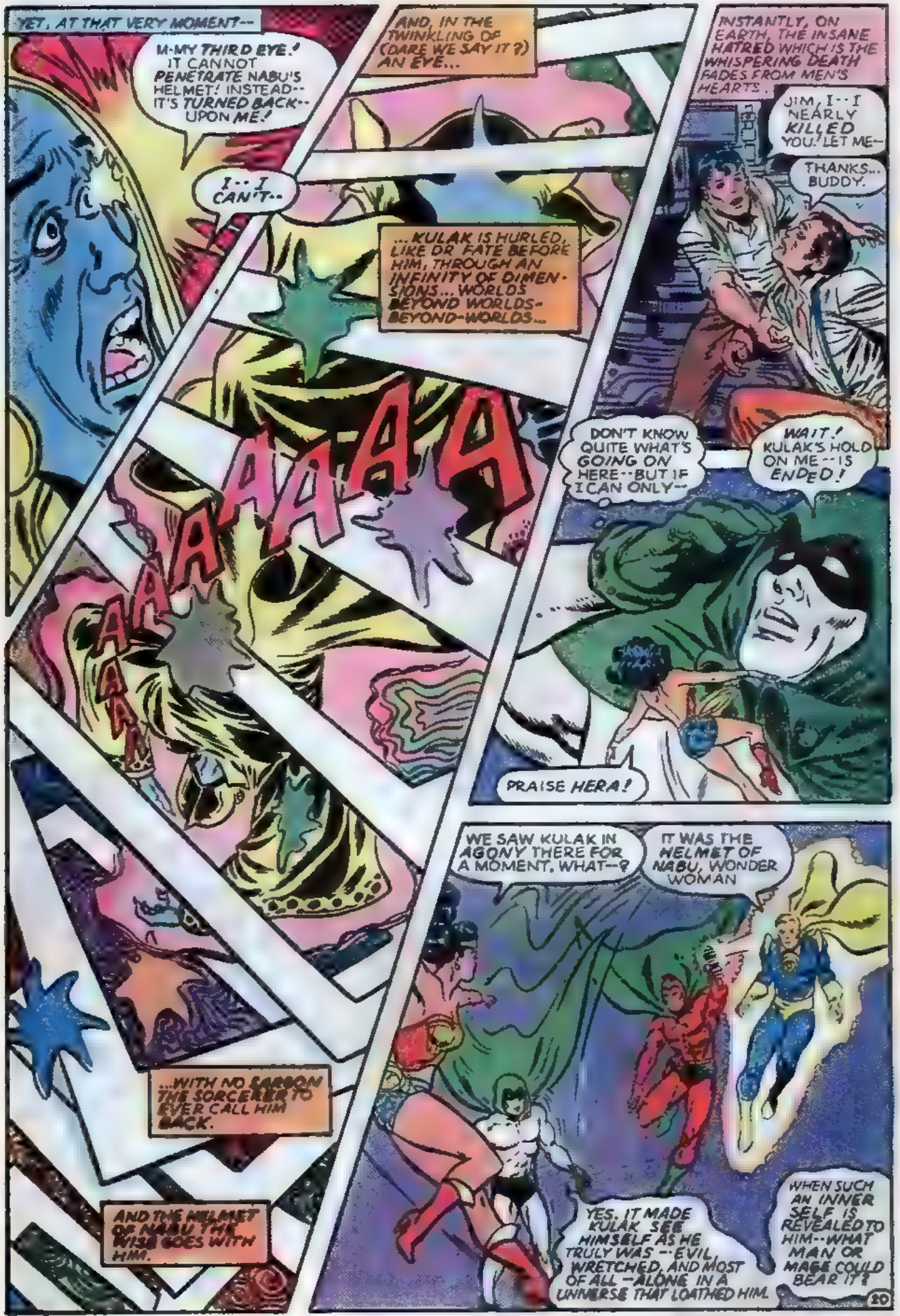
AND, AS THE SPECTRE'S STRUGGLES THROW MASSIVE CHUNKS OF DEBRIS IN ALL DIRECTIONS--
EASY, LITTLE LADY. THE SANDMAN'S GOT YOU.
OHHH--!


GUESS ALL WE'RE GOOD FOR, DOC, IS RESCUE DETA
THERE'S NO WORTHIER CAUSE, FRIEND--
--WHILE THERE'S SOMEONE LEFT ALIVE TO RESCUE!

FIREBRAND'S HELPING THE STAFF. GOT TO GET LITTLE TERRI TO SAFETY--
--THEN I'M GONNA JOIN THE OTHERS SOMEHOW.
WIN, LOSE, OR DRAW--THE JUSTICE SOCIETY'S GONNA FINISH THIS THING TOGETHER!

JUST NOW, IT LOOKS LIKE. LOSE.
GOT TO TRY SOMETHING--ANYTHING!
SNAP!
THERE ARE TIMES WHEN HAVING THE POWER TO FLY MEANS NOTHING MORE THAN HAVING A FRONT-ROW SEAT AT AN EXECUTION--
BLAST! HE SPOTTED ME!
--IN THIS CASE, THE EXECUTION OF AN ENTIRE PLANET!
YOU BEGIN TO ANNOY ME, MY FORMER FRIENDS..
IT IS TIME YOU CEASED ANNOYING ME.
UNNH!:
S-SO C-COLD--
--AS IF AN ICY WIND JUST B-BLEW ACROSS THE F-FACE OF THE WORLD--!
GOT YOU, HAWK! YOU OKAY?
C-COULDN'T STAY UP--COULDN'T EVEN S-STOP MY T-TEETH--FROM CHATTERING--!
HERE HE COMES!
AND WE'VE EXHAUSTED OUR LAST DEFENSE!
IT'S BEEN NICE KNOWIN' YA, FELLAS!
WAIT! SUDDENLY, THE SPECTRE PAUSES--AS IF FROZEN HIMSELF--IMMOBILE AS A STATUE!
A MOMENT'S RESPITE, ONLY--
--OR IS SOMETHING HAPPENING IN KULAK'S SPHERE??
YOU COULD SAY THAT.
CAN'T KEEP HIS BOLTS BACK--ANY LONGER!
CHA!
YOUR DOOM WAS FOREWRITTEN IN LETTERS OF BLOOD, FATE--THE MOMENT YOU DECIDED TO OPPOSE MY WILL.


EVEN NABU'S HELMET COULD NOT PROTECT YOU FROM ME FOREVER.
AH, BUT IN MY HANDS--
--IT WILL BECOME THE TRUE INSTRUMENT OF POWER IT WAS EVER MEANT TO BE!
UNNNH--!
NOW BEGONE, MORTAL!
YOU WAGED A VALIANT IF DOOMED FIGHT TO SAVE THE CIVILIZATION I AWOKE TO DESTROY.
IT IS ONLY MEET--THAT YOU SHOULD PERISH WITH THAT CIVILIZATION!
AND, IN THE OUTER WORLD, EVEN AS THE GRAVITY ROD SLOWS THE FORMER MAGE'S HURTLING DESCENT...
I WAS BUT DISTRACTED A MOMENT, MY SPECTRE... AND SO YOU STAYED YOUR HAND FROM KILLING.
NOW, WHEN I DON THIS HELMET, WE SHALL OBLITERATE THE EARTH--TOGETHER!
N-NO... I...
LISTEN! THE SPECTRE'S STARTING TO FIGHT BACK!
BUT--TOO LATE!?
DESTROY US IF YOU MUST, KULAK--BUT NOT UNTOLD BILLIONS OF PEOPLE!
NEVER FELT SO--HELPLESS BEFORE--!
THE INHABITANTS OF YOUR WORLD SPEAK OF FATES WORSE THAN DEATH--BUT THEY ARE WRONG.
FOR NOW, I, KULAK, AM FATE--I AM DEATH--
--AND THEY ARE THUS ONE AND THE SAME!



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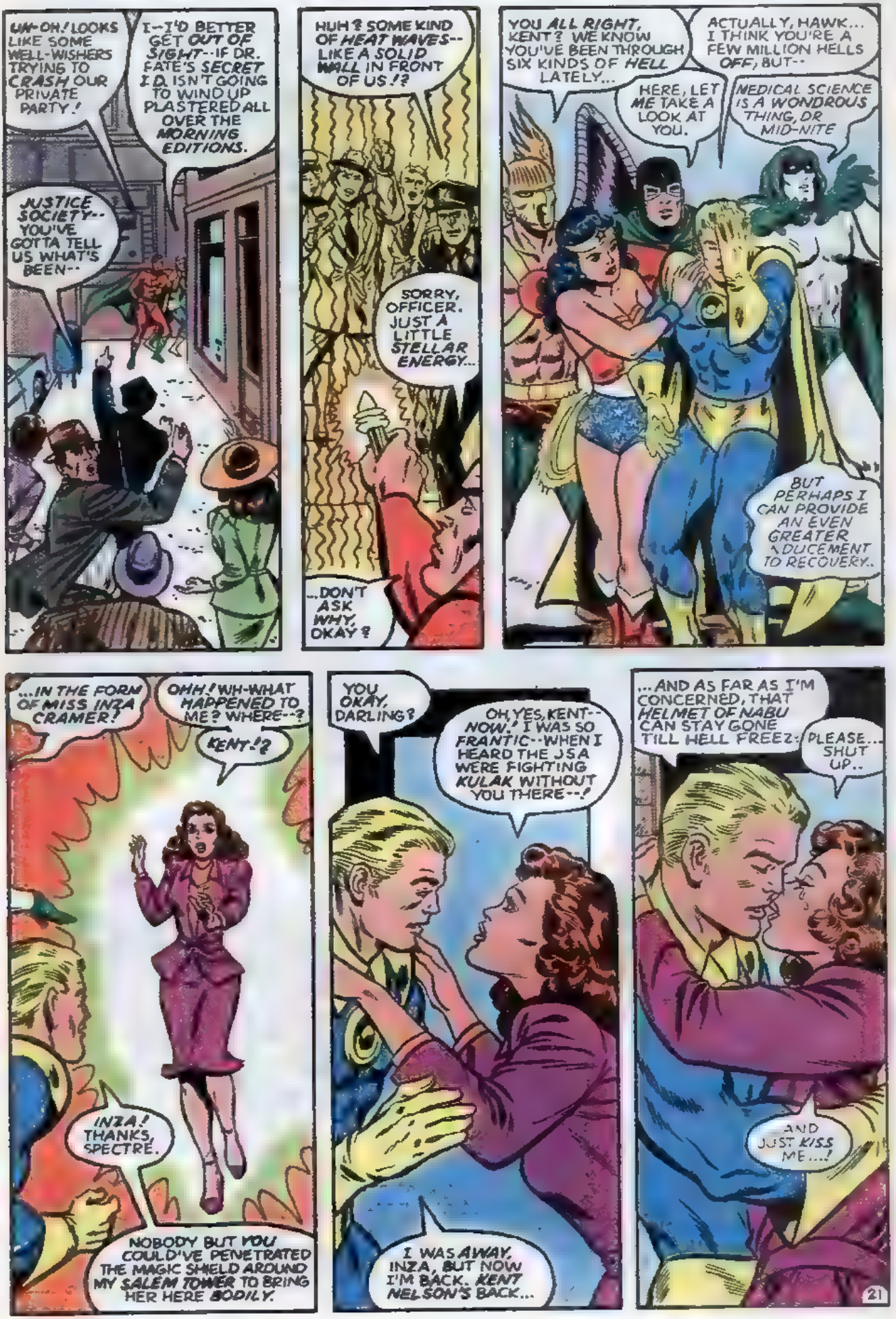
UM-OH! LOOKS LIKE SOME WELL-WISHERS TRYING TO CRASH OUR PRIVATE PARTY!
I--I'D BETTER GET OUT OF SIGHT--IF DR. FATE'S SECRET I.D. ISN'T GOING TO WIND UP PLASTERED ALL OVER THE MORNING EDITIONS.
JUSTICE SOCIETY--YOU'VE GOTTA TELL US WHAT'S BEEN--
HUH? SOME KIND OF HEAT WAVES--LIKE A SOLID WALL IN FRONT OF US!?
SORRY, OFFICER. JUST A LITTLE STELLAR ENERGY...
..DON'T ASK WHY, OKAY?
YOU ALL RIGHT, KENT? WE KNOW YOU'VE BEEN THROUGH SIX KINDS OF HELL LATELY...
ACTUALLY, HAWK... I THINK YOU'RE A FEW MILLION HELLS OFF, BUT--
HERE, LET ME TAKE A LOOK AT YOU.
MEDICAL SCIENCE IS A WONDROUS THING, DR MID-NITE
BUT PERHAPS I CAN PROVIDE AN EVEN GREATER INDUCEMENT TO RECOVERY..
...IN THE FORM OF MISS INZA CRAMER!
OHH! WH-WHAT HAPPENED TO ME? WHERE--?
KENT!?
INZA! THANKS, SPECTRE.
NOBODY BUT YOU COULD'VE PENETRATED THE MAGIC SHIELD AROUND MY SALEM TOWER TO BRING HER HERE BODILY.
YOU OKAY, DARLING?
OH, YES, KENT--NOW! I WAS SO FRANTIC--WHEN I HEARD THE JSA WERE FIGHTING KULAK WITHOUT YOU THERE--!
I WAS AWAY, INZA, BUT NOW I'M BACK. KENT NELSON'S BACK...
...AND AS FAR AS I'M CONCERNED, THAT HELMET OF NABU CAN STAY GONE TILL HELL FREEZ-
PLEASE... SHUT UP..
AND JUST KISS ME...!
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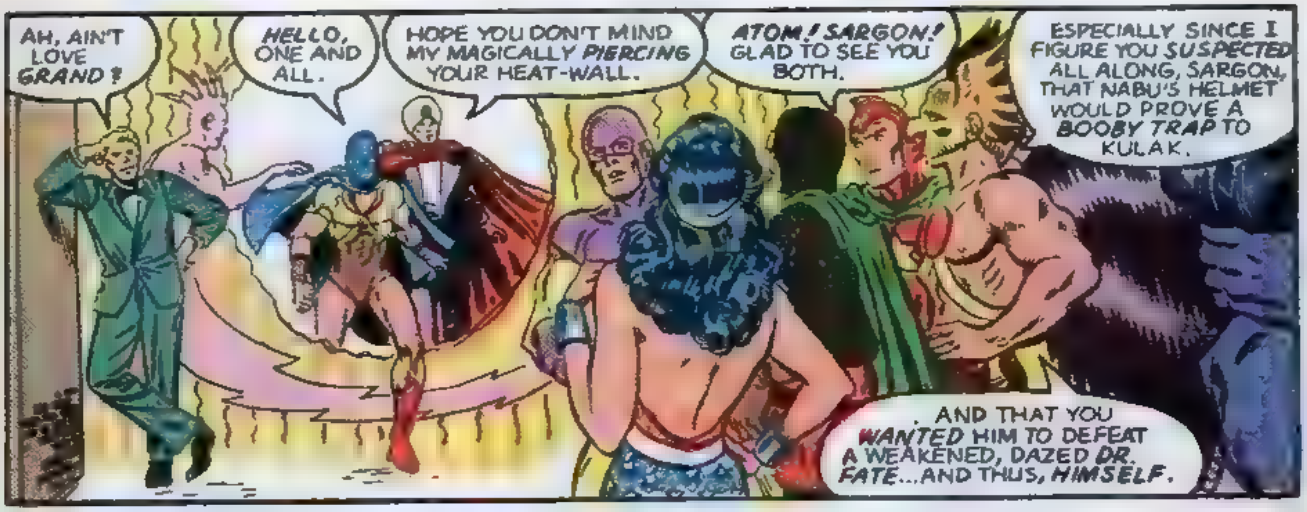
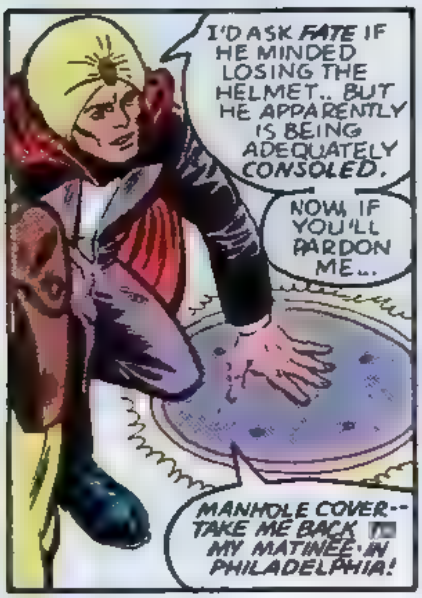
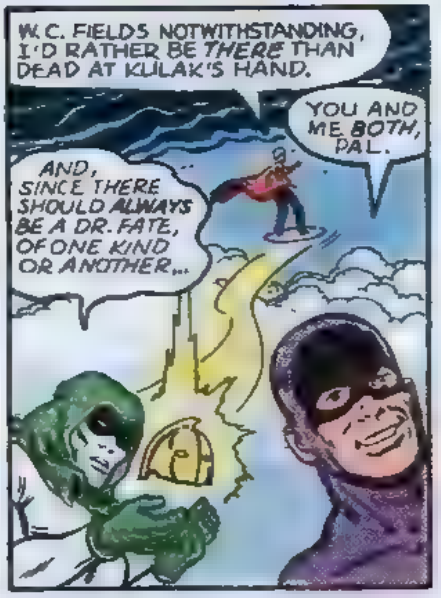
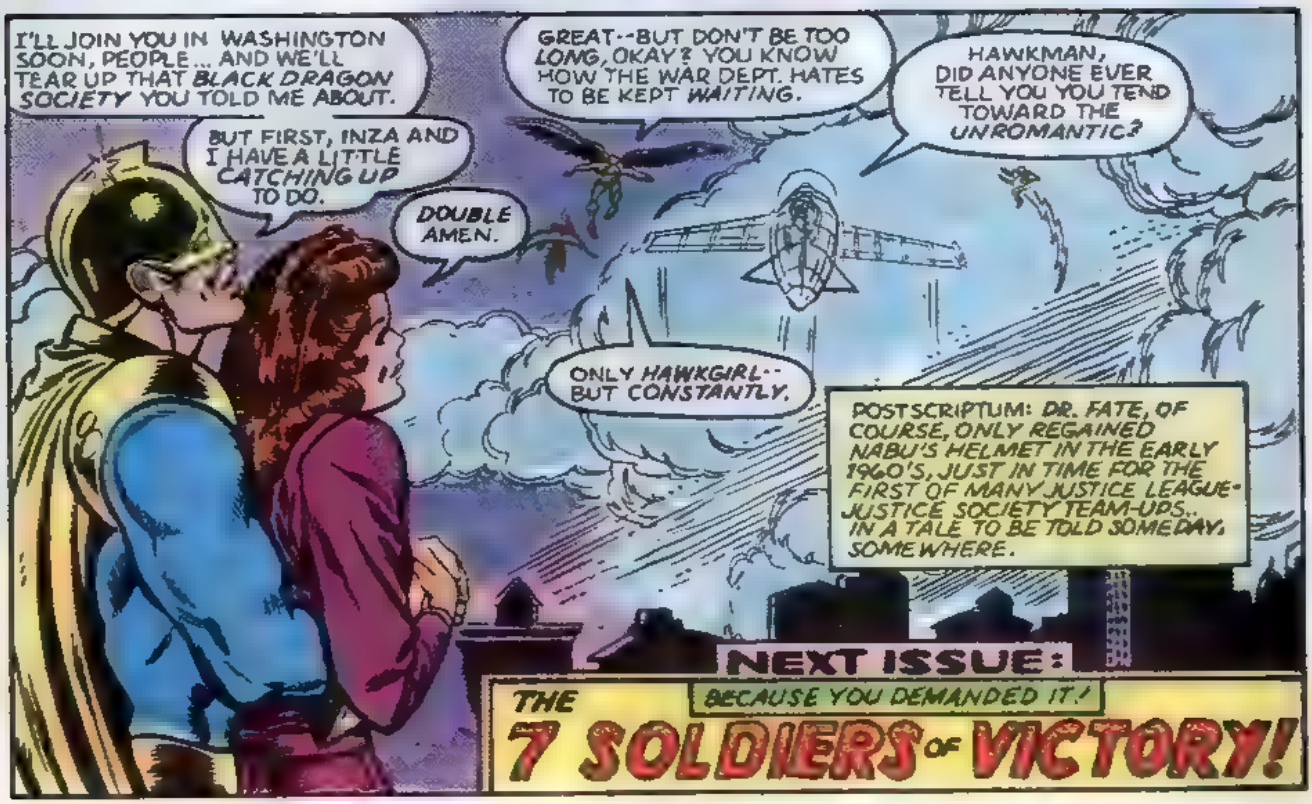

AH, AIN'T LOVE GRAND?
HELLO, ONE AND ALL.
HOPE YOU DON'T MIND MY MAGICALLY PIERCING YOUR HEAT-WALL.
ATOM! SARGON! GLAD TO SEE YOU BOTH.
ESPECIALLY SINCE I FIGURE YOU SUSPECTED ALL ALONG, SARGON, THAT NABU'S HELMET WOULD PROVE A BOOBY TRAP TO KULAK.
. AND THAT YOU WANTED HIM TO DEFEAT A WEAKENED, DAZED DR. FATE...AND THUS, HIMSELF.


I'D ASK FATE IF HE MINDED LOSING THE HELMET.. BUT HE APPARENTLY IS BEING ADEQUATELY CONSOLED.
NOW, IF YOU'LL PARDON ME...
MANHOLE COVER--TAKE ME BACK TO MY MATINEE IN PHILADELPHIA!


W.C. FIELDS NOTWITHSTANDING, I'D RATHER BE THERE THAN DEAD AT KULAK'S HAND.
YOU AND ME BOTH, PAL.
AND, SINCE THERE SHOULD ALWAYS BE A DR. FATE, OF ONE KIND OR ANOTHER...

...MAY I PRESENT YOUR SECOND HELMET, LIKEWISE SUMMONED FROM SALEM?
THANKS AGAIN, SPEC. FROM HERE ON, THAT'S MY ONLY HEADGEAR.
AMEN!
ONLY DR. FATE WOULD DARE CALL THE SPECTRE... "SPEC."


I'LL JOIN YOU IN WASHINGTON SOON, PEOPLE... AND WE'LL TEAR UP THAT BLACK DRAGON SOCIETY YOU TOLD ME ABOUT.
BUT FIRST, INZA AND I HAVE A LITTLE CATCHING UP TO DO.
DOUBLE AMEN.
GREAT--BUT DON'T BE TOO LONG, OKAY? YOU KNOW HOW THE WAR DEPT. HATES TO BE KEPT WAITING.
HAWKMAN, DID ANYONE EVER TELL YOU YOU TEND TOWARD THE UNROMANTIC?
ONLY HAWKGIRL--BUT CONSTANTLY.
POSTSCRIPTUM: DR. FATE, OF COURSE, ONLY REGAINED NABU'S HELMET IN THE EARLY 1960'S, JUST IN TIME FOR THE FIRST OF MANY JUSTICE LEAGUE-JUSTICE SOCIETY TEAM-UPS.. IN A TALE TO BE TOLD SOMEDAY, SOMEWHERE.
NEXT ISSUE:
BECAUSE YOU DEMANDED IT!
THE 7 SOLDIERS OF VICTORY!

COMING SOON FROM THE NEW D.C!
MACHLAN & ORDWAY
THE NEXT GENERATION OF EARTH-2 SUPER-STARS!
INFINITY, INC.
POWER GIRL -- FURY -- THE SILVER SCARAB -- OBSIDIAN -- NUKLON -- NORTHWIND -- BRAINWAVE JR. -- JADE -- AND THE HARD-HITTING HUNTRESS!
OH YES -- AND JUST IN CASE YOU FEEL LIKE A RIDE ON A CAT-CYCLE -- THE LADY'S NAME IS ... LA GARRO!™

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DON'T MISS IT!

ALL-STAR SQUADROOM

DC COMICS, INC., 666 FIFTH AVENUE
NEW YORK, N.Y. 10103

L-1461

SPECIAL NOTE: We asked guest penciler Richard Howell, who helped us out with this issue of ALL-STAR SQUADRON and the last, to give us a short auto-biographical piece, and here's what he sent us. A bit rough, but you get the picture, and we just thought you (like we) would like to know what sort of people you're dealing with here:

RICHARD HOWELL—age 20's...lifelong comics fan who's been involved in many aspects of comics. Writer/artist/publisher of popular alternative comic **Portia Prinz of the Glamazons,** *among others. Managed two comics stores in Boston. A graduate of Harvard, class of '76 (a freshman year term project was to script and draw a Wonder Woman story). One of the editors of New Media Publishing. Other DC work to date: Green Lantern Corps (plus a few stories for Marvel).*

There you have it. A bit sketchy, as per our request, but you get the picture. We just thought you (like we) would like to know what sort of people you're dealing with here. A Harvard man, no less...!

—Roy Thomas.

Dear Roy,

A little less than two years ago I was somewhat confused by a new comic called ALL-STAR SQUADRON. Being unfamiliar with the world of DC, I did not understand why the Flash and Green Lantern looked differently at times. I picked up the new book mainly because the Rich Buckler art looked good, and I remembered that this was going to be one of your new writing projects. As time progressed, I came to love the All-Stars and the Justice Society. I'm not exactly sure why, but I became fascinated by the concept of a World War Two comic.

On top of loving the concept, I have come to love the artwork of Jerry Ordway. To me his artwork is refreshingly simple but also beautiful. But today, I heard from a very reputable and trustworthy source that in the summer of 1983 Jerry will be leaving the book—and *then* that the book will move away from World War Two adventures to stories about the modern-day Justice Society.

I can understand Jerry's wanting to "move on" to other projects; a good replacement team might be Adrian Gonzales or Rick Hoberg. But I am stunned by the news of changing the direction of the book. Now from what I have read and heard, sales of ALL-STAR SQUADRON have been fairly good, so why tamper with a good thing? The past attempt to revive the Justice Society in the 1970's met with failure both in ALL-STAR and in ADVENTURE; I'm not even sure if I'd buy the new book.

I care deeply about ALL-STAR SQUADRON. I really wish I could be writing a letter of praise, because you guys certainly deserve it; but right now I'm too concerned about the magazine's rather bleak future.

J.K. Harr
(No Address Given)

You needn't be, J.K., because—despite the substitution of Rick Hoberg's pencils for those of Jerry Ordway, starting in #31—that future looks bright indeed!

The combination of Jerry's artwork with the return of major JSA heroes in issue #19 (and since) has boosted the mag's sales, which were—as you'd correctly heard—always reasonably good in the first place; no change in time-period or basic direction for the mag has ever even been seriously discussed between Ye Writer/Editor and the Powers-That-Be-Above. Sure, I'd still love to write a 1980's-set JSA comic...but in addition to, *not instead of, ALL-STAR SQUADRON.*

The confusion was perhaps caused by news leaking out that there will be an INFINITY, INC. comic-book, late this year—and it will naturally be set in the 1980's. The JSA will appear as guest stars therein, of course—and, as noted in the ANNUAL, Power Girl and the Huntress will be among the sizable membership.

But an end to the All-Star Squadron as a World War Two fighting-team? Not while I can help it, friend!

—R.T.

Dear All-Stars,

God, I hate you and I hate your book! ALL-STAR SQUADRON has excellent writing and art, plus all the heroes you ever wanted to see, and then some. And these are the very qualities which make this series a comics fan's nightmare. You've made the book so good, it's next to impossible to wait four weeks for the next issue to arrive. How could you do this to us?

Now for some suggestions: How about a several-issue spotlight on the "kid groups" of the Golden Age, such as the Boy Commandos and the Newsboy Legion, perhaps even a Golden-Age "Teen Titans" (featuring sidekicks like Sandy, Robin, Speedy, Dan the Dyna-Mite, the Star-Spangled Kid, maybe even Little Boy Blue)?

If something happened to the Shining Knight in England, wouldn't the All-Stars run a very good chance of bumping into a several-issue encounter with the Seven Soldiers of Victory?

When you start running into continuity problems with the original ALL-STAR COMICS series, wouldn't it be nice to reprint those issues in a monthly companion to ALL-STAR SQUADRON?

G.R. Burr
3647A Minnesota
St. Louis, MO 63118

Can't quite do that, G.R., but issue #29 features the Seven Soldiers of Victory (retelling the events of LEADING COMICS #3, 1942, with a few additions and some updating), in answer to many requests—while #30 will retell the events of ALL-STAR COMICS #12, also '42, in which the Justice Society fought the Black Dragon Society. The first will be penciled by Jerry Ordway (returning for a very special nostalgic trip while he and I ready the forthcoming JSA MINI-SERIES), the second by erstwhile SQUADRON inker Mike Machlan. How's that?

—R.T.

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